Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:MSTERNER/NEA/EGY:DZWEIFEL:LHW
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NSC:WQUANDT(SUBS)
S/S-O:JTHYDEN
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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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WHITE HOUSE 0215

S E C R E T STATE 115989

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, US, EG, XF

SUBJECT:APPROACH TO EGYPTIANS ON ARMS PROPOSALS

1. WITH RESPECT TO FURTHER BRIEFING WHICH WE HAVE PROMISED EGYPTIANS ON RESULTS OF OUR TALKS WITH ISRAELIS AND OUR IDEAS ON WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, THERE WILL BE DELAY OF FEW DAYS BEFORE WE WILL BE GETTING SOMETHING TO YOU OWING TO OUR INTERNAL DELIBERATIONS AND DESIRE TO CONSULT WITH THE SECRETARY WHO GETS BACK FROM MEXICO MAY 6. IF EGYPTIANS QUERY YOU ABOUT THIS YOU MAY SAY YOU EXPECT TO BE GETTING SOMETHING TO CONVEY TO THEM IN FEW DAYS TIME.

2. IN MEANTIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT SADAT GETS
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SOME COMMENTS FROM US WITH RESPECT TO ARMS SALES PROPOSALS NOW BEFORE CONGRESS WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE REASSURING WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION. ON MAY 1, PRESIDENT SENT LETTER TO KING KHALID IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED PROPOSED SALE OF F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA. IN LETTER, PRESIDENT BRIEFLY REVIEWED RECENT HISTORY LEADING UP TO SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS, AS WELL AS PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED NOW

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THAT MATTER FORMALLY UNDER CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION. ALTHOUGH OTHER POINTS (OUTLINED BELOW) TO AN EXTENT ARE WORDED TO MEET SAUDI NEEDS, THEY ARE APPLICABLE TO PROPOSED F-5 SALE AS WELL.

3. PLEASE MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO SADAT, EITHER DIRECTLY IF OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF OR THROUGH MABARAK, INFORMING HIM THAT THEY COVER SUBSTANTIALLY SAME GROUND AS LETTER ON SUBJECT WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ALSO SENT TO KING KHALID:

-- INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAD URGED PRESIDENT TO DELAY SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED SALES AT THIS TIME. PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROCEED NOW.

-- PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESS, MEDIA, AND U.S. PUBLIC--EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT WISDOM OF ARMS TRANSFERS--HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND CONSTRUCTIVE EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND NEED FOR STRONG U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE KEY COUNTRIES.

-- DURING THIRTY-DAY CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF PROPOSED SALE, THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY AND INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OF PROPOSED TRANSFER.

--ADMINISTRATION MUST BE PREPARED TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO

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COMPLEXITY OF PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT. IT IS PRESIDENT'S INTENTION TO RESPOND IN A WAY NOT ONLY TO STRENGTHEN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED SALE BUT TO BUILD ON GROWING APPRECIATION OF FACT THAT U.S. SHARES HIGHLY IMPORTANT INTEREST AND OBJECTIVES WITH BOTH EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA.
CHRISTOPHER

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